

REMARKS

Claims 14 - 15 are pending in the application. The Office Action rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Cartwright and Gano, III, et al, respectively. Applicant hereby amends claims 14 and 15 and adds new claims 16 - 20. No new matter has been added to the application. Applicant believes these amendments overcome all pending rejections.

CARTWRIGHT

Cartwright is directed to a food chiller for use in a food services environment to quickly chill foods from very high cooking temperatures to very low chilled food storage temperatures. This is an important distinction as the current claims are directed to portable devices and methods that are not analogous to this art. The food chiller of Cartwright operates off of the power grid available in the kitchen, likely 120V or 240V but not specified in the application. This would not qualify as "portable" by any definition. Further, the food chiller of Cartwright has no heating element. This is in contrast to the claimed invention that both heats and cools. Finally, Cartwright is not designed to maintain the temperature within a range, only to bring the temperature down to a set range. This distinction is the difference between a chiller and a storage unit.

GANO, III, ET AL

Gano is a passive system and the claims have been amended to clarify the active nature of the claimed invention. Because Gano is passive there is no relationship between the temperature of the stored substance and an environmental control system.

RATH

The examiner has previously cited Rath, so the applicant would like to mention that Rath only measures the temperature of product within the container as a means to determine the efficiency and adequacy of the cooling system, not to control the temperature control system. Another reason to mention this is to highlight the difference

between an environmental control system that wastes energy by attempting to keep the ambient air in the container within a preset range and the claimed invention where the environmental control system is activated only to prevent the substance from deviating from a predetermined temperature range. This saves considerable energy and allows the system to operated over a longer period of time with a smaller rechargeable power unit.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner make the above amendments, withdraw all pending rejections, and allow the patent to issue. Any questions regarding this response should be directed to the undersigned attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

CASH KLEMCHUK POWERS TAYLOR LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By: _____

Keith E. Taber

Registration No. 46,114

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8150 N. Central Expressway
Suite 1575
Dallas, Texas 75206
Tel: 214/239-8900
Fax: 214/550-2671